



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
AND RESPONSE SECTION  
Division of Emergency Medical  
Services and Trauma  
600 E Boulevard Ave – Dept 301  
Bismarck, N.D. 58505-0200  
[www.ndhealth.gov/ems](http://www.ndhealth.gov/ems)



To: North Dakota Ambulance Services  
From: Division of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma  
Re: Community Paramedic Pilot Program  
Date: January 31, 2014

The North Dakota Department of Health, Division of EMS & Trauma has been authorized by the ND Legislature to conduct a pilot “Community Paramedic” program.

The Community Paramedic concept has been implemented in both the United States, as well as internationally. The concept is to use specially-trained local EMS providers to help fill gaps in the local health delivery system. Each community examines how best their EMS providers can be utilized to improve the access to primary health care. Some examples include:

- In home evaluation and follow-up with patients who use 911 ambulance and/or emergency room service excessively
- Patients at high risk for readmission from chronic conditions like heart failure and diabetes receiving follow-up care, on-site testing and treatment.
- Patients who call 911 with non-life threatening complaints
- Patients requiring clinic appointments, but without transportation
- Hospice patients requiring medication or care during evenings or weekends
- Staffing of rural clinics providing basic screening and follow-up
- Operating as part of a public health team offering outreach primary health care
- Behavioral health evaluation and transportation

A brief video discussing some of the national initiatives for Community Paramedics can be viewed at:  
<http://youtu.be/Uuypdcl07Ac>

We are seeking licensed ND EMS services to participate in the pilot program. In order to qualify for inclusion in the pilot project, your service would need to have:

- At least one full time licensed paramedic with at least 2 years of ALS experience
- An affiliation with licensed medical provider/medical facility that would be willing to serve as your primary referral and medical oversight for primary care services.

We would very much like to have the opportunity to discuss the program with all interested agencies who have interest in joining the pilot program in ND. You may contact Ken Reed, Community Paramedic Coordinator by telephone at (925) 895-1980 or email him at [kreed@nd.gov](mailto:kreed@nd.gov). We look forward to opportunity to work with your organization on this exciting and innovative concept.